

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 152-154 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 145, 146, 155 and 162 are amended; the amendments find support in the figures and the specification and do not introduce new matter.

New claims 163-165 further claim the invention and do not introduce new matter.

The indication that claim 161 is allowed, and that claims 145-151, 160, and 162 would also be allowed if objections are overcome, is gratefully acknowledged.

Applicants also acknowledge with thanks that claims 155-159 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Official Action objected to claims 146, 154, and claim 162, stating that the phrase "and/or" is unclear.

In response, claims 146 and 162 are amended responsive to the Official Action's objection. Claim 154 has been cancelled as stated above.

The Official Action objected to claims 145 and 152 stating that the recitation of "a locking mechanism for" is unclear as to what is being locked.

In response, claim 145 has been amended responsive to the Official Action's objection; claim 152 has been cancelled as stated above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 145 is earnestly solicited.

The Official Action rejected claims 152-154 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cassidy et al. (U.S. 5,615,625). The Official Action further states that claims 155-159, depending from independent claim 152, would be allowable if amended as independent including the recitations of the parent claim.

In response, claims 152-154 are cancelled, as stated above. Claim 155 is amended to include the recitations of parent claim 152, responsive to the Official Action's objection directed to "a locking mechanism". Claim 155 is therefore believed to have been placed into allowable form. New claims 163 and 164 correspond to cancelled dependent claims 153 and 154, respectively, revised to depend from amended claim 155.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that applicants have fully responded to the October 30, 2007 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims, as presented, and their early passage to issue.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney for applicants at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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